MONTEREY NEWS

December 2002
VOLUME XXXII · Number 12

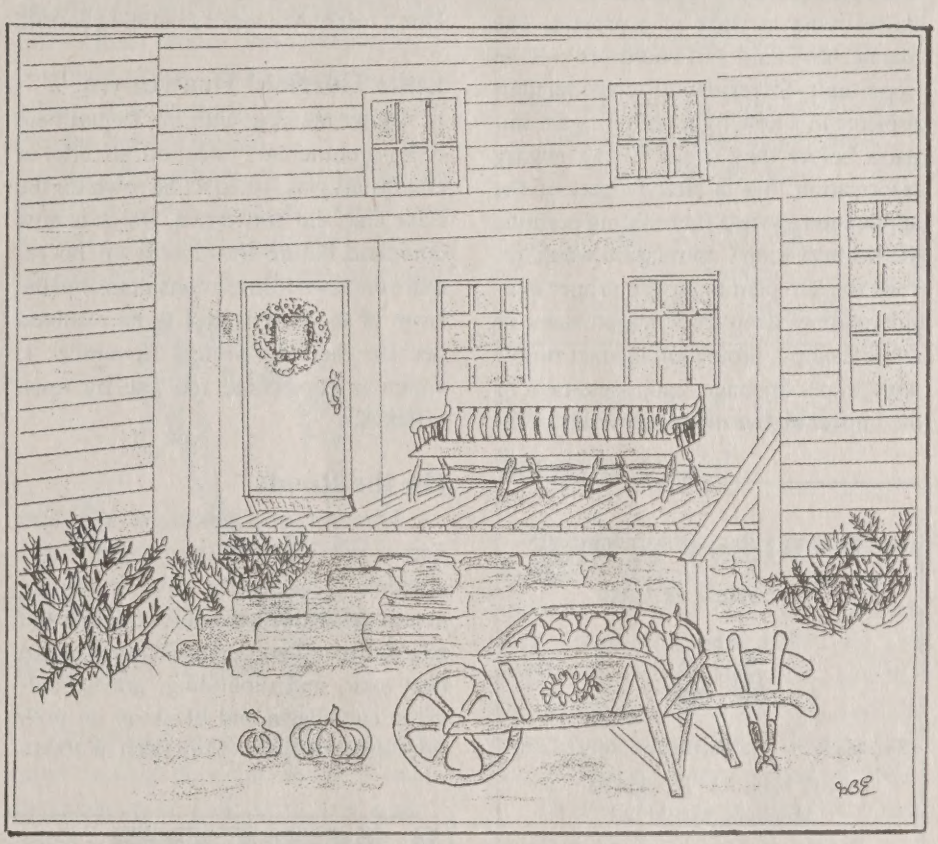
The Town

Lake Garfield Access

The long simmering issue of "Public Access" to Lake Garfield was explored at a recent meeting in the Town Offices. Eighteen people attended, including representatives from the state and local fishermen. Jen Wright, an engineer for the state, circulated a copy of a 1971 plan, which called for paving over the whole of the current beach area for parking and moving the town beach to Brewer Pond. While the plan is obviously outdated, the town is committed to balancing the need for public access for boaters with the need for a safe town beach. The Selectboard has appointed a study committee to seek alternate locations that might satisfy all parties. In the meantime, the board discussed a rebate to boaters who pay a fee to access the lake through Kinne's Grove. Given the current state of the economy, questions were raised as to whether the state or the town could even take any action to accomplish their goals. A meeting has been scheduled for April 8.

Volunteering

The question of compensation for members of the Fire Company is of ongoing concern to the Selectboard as they anticipate a future of reduced numbers of volunteers. The inequities of the property tax rebate for Fire Company members, which only benefits property owners, and a recent ruling by the IRS that calls for the rebate to be reported as income have made consideration of alternatives a priority. While some funds have been allotted to compensate firefighters who do not own property, the current cost to the town is unclear. The goal is to devise a fair and meaningful schedule of compensation, perhaps using a base rate and a per call payment. The state has mandated the establishment of a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the Selectboard is appointing committee members to begin the certification and planning process. The committee will consist of community members as well as representatives of emergency and town groups. A first meeting will be held at the Firehouse on Monday, December 2, at 7 p.m. The Community Development Advisory Committee, which is charged with considering open space, housing, economic development, and transportation will meet Tuesday Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.



Harvest time at the Bidwell House

Money Matters

The Town has not as yet had approval from the State for the tax rate but calls have been made and the approval should come soon. The Salary Committee presented their report to the Selectboard; it is currently being reviewed by Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier and will be discussed at the Selectboard meeting on December 9 at 9 a.m. The town will acquire a surplus diesel-powered emergency generator from New Hampshire for $3700, a considerable savings over the estimated cost.

Good Neighbors

The Conservation Commission is ready to schedule an informational meeting on the Scenic Mountain Act. They have worked hard to fine tune it so that it works for Monterey as well as satisfying the state guidelines. As growth has occurred in Monterey, more fragile areas are being used as homesites. Clear-cutting and excavation sometimes have negative consequences for abutters as well as those living in sight of a project. The Scenic Mountain Act could provide an opportunity for residents to consider their projects in a new light and mitigate impacts before they occur. Using mostly information that is already part of the application process for building permits, the Conservation Commission would review the site plan to ensure proper consideration of steep areas, maintenance of a tree canopy, protection against runoff with proper drainage, and assessment of the impact on our mountain vistas.

June Rochedieu has put together welcome baskets for new property owners which include information about building permits and town regulations. She has enlisted the Center for Ecological Technology to do a presentation on energy conservation in new buildings and renovations and is hoping to get local real estate agents involved. Gould Farm is in the process of placing 125 acres under Agricultural Preservation Restriction. Don't forget: you need a building permit.

Lake Garfield Drawdown

After meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection, an order of conditions was issued to the town for the Lake Garfield drawdown, which is now complete. Future drawdowns will not require the town to hire a consultant, but the issue of the date is still to be resolved because the state prefers November 1, which is considered too late by town officials.

On the Roads

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes provided the Selectboard with a schedule of proposed roadwork over the next six years, which includes paving and guardrails on Tyringham Road ($68,000) next year, and rebuilding, gravel, culverts, catchbasin and blacktop on both sides of Brett Road ($145,000) in 2004–2005. Masstop is scheduled for Blue Hill Road ($83,972) in 2004; Sandisfield Road ($158,000) in 2005–20066; Corashire Road ($29,990); Pixley Road ($112,835); Main Road ($360,000) between Swann and Fairview , including full depth reclamation, gravel and repaving with new drainage, culverts and catchbasins; and Gould Road ($128,000). Fairview Road is scheduled for catchbasins, subdrains, gravel and oil and stone ($55,000) in 2006, and the North Road Bridge will be replaced with new steel beams or a box culvert in 2003. A mile of Beartown Road will get gravel and three culverts ($36,000) in 2004–2005, while the 1.2 miles from Tyringham Road to Fairview Road will get catchbasins, drainage and Masstop ($56,250) in 2006. Chapter 90 funds are anticipated at $102,000 per year and the balance from Town Capital Funds estimated at $75,000 to $80,000 yearly. At the most recent Selectboard meeting, all agreed on the importance of a consistent salt and sand policy throughout the town, while balancing the issue of safety with the desire for reasonable salt use.

Mr. Forbes also presented the board with a rough draft of the revised driveway policy and permitting procedure.

There will be no Selectboard meeting on December 30.

— Michele Miller

CHARLES J. FERRIS
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Winter Solstice Remembered

Since the dawn of human history communities, tribes, and clans have gathered together to honor and to celebrate the cardinal points on the Earth calender: summer and winter solstices; spring and autumn equinoxes.

On the darkest day of the year—winter solstice, December 21st—a mysterious new light begins to return to Earth, heralding the start of a new growth cycle, promising that Mother Earth will bloom again in all her colorful and myriad ways. In a similar way the summer solstice celebration on June 21st recognizes the appearance once again of a mystical darkness. And it is through this interplay of light and darkness, summer and winter, yin and yang—the universal dance of opposites—that life as we know it on blue-green planet Earth is sustained.

Our ancestors knew to participate by taking their rightful "human" place within this chain of natural yearly occurrences through solstice rituals. Today our winter holidays of Hanukkah (the festival of lights) and Christmas (symbolized by a tree lit from within by tiny lights) both carry aspects of the profound solstice message that "light is born out of darkness."

In keeping with these ancient traditions I have offered to present my own updated version of a winter solstice celebration during community supper on December 11th (6–8 p.m.) at the Monterey Meetinghouse. A beautiful, moving nature slide show called "A Day in the Life of Mother Earth" (collected over many years and set to music) will serve as centerpiece for this solstice remembrance. I hope you will join us!

— Eileen Lawlor

Michele Miller

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Community Dinner Dec. 11

Solstice, Holiday Celebration

The next Community Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse basement. Following dinner, Eileen Lawlor will present a mixed-media program in celebration of the winter solstice and the approaching holidays. Entitled "A Day in the Life of Mother Earth," the program combines slides, music, poetry, and narration and promises to ease us gracefully into the holiday season.

As usual, all are invited and all are asked to bring silverware, plates, and food to share. Come join us in this festive occasion and be part of a Monterey tradition!

Do You Want a Skating Rink this Winter?

The Park Commission is requesting input from the public in regards to interest in having a skating rink this winter. Please call any member of the commission with your comments and ideas.

- Jim Edelman 528-0006
- LeRoy Thorpe 528-2164
- David Crane 644-9151

Free Puppet Show

MICHAEL'S SURPRISE

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Michael Wolski

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2002,
2:00 p.m.
Monterey Church

SANTA will visit children10 years and younger in the church basement after the show.

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Delight Dodyk's Book Receives Award

Delight Dodyk, longtime summer resident of Monterey, has edited and introduced *The Diary of Sarah Tabitha Reid, 1868–1873,* published by the Monmouth County Historical Association. In recognition of her work, Delight has received a New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Author Award for 2002.

Dr. Dodyk recently joined the board of the Monterey Historical Society.

— Jana Shepard

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December Events Schedule at Monterey United Church of Christ

Double String Duo, featuring Jason Kessler on 12-string guitar and Rick Eckberg on 5-string double bass, will perform a holiday concert of Renaissance music in the sanctuary on **Saturday, December 14, at 7 p.m.** Tickets will be available at the door for a suggested donation of $10.

Coffee House on **Saturday, December 21, at 7 p.m.** to help raise money for Mel Hochstetler's mission trip to Colombia. Headline act will be Bottom of the Bucket. The admission is a suggested donation of $8 at the door.

Christmas Eve Service, Tuesday, December 24, 8 p.m. Please check the church website or call for information and to verify the time.

For more information log on to www.montereychurch.org, e-mail to montucc@bcn.net, or call at 528-5850.

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So. Berk. YMCA Activities

2003 Ice Skating Lessons

The Southern Berkshire YMCA is planning winter ice-skating lessons for children five years of age or older. This is the third year that the lessons have been offered at the Monterey Ice Skating Rink/ Firehouse Pavilion. A total of five lessons will be offered beginning January 4, weather permitting. Each lesson is from 9–9:45 a.m. The fee for the lessons is $40 per child for a total of five lessons. However, the fee is discounted for Monterey residents and SBYMCA members: $30 per child for a total of five lessons.

Financial assistance is available for all SBYMCA programs; inquire for details. Helmets and single-blade skates are required. Please call Marta at 528-YMCA/ 9622, ext. 2 to register.

New Year's Eve Overnight

SBYMCA is hosting its fifth annual New Year's Eve Overnight from 6 p.m. Monday, December 31, to 10 a.m. Tuesday, January 1, at St. Peter's Parish Center in Great Barrington. The special event is offered to children ages five to twelve. SBYMCA staff provides games, music, arts and crafts, as well as evening snacks and morning breakfast. The fee is $40/ child ($20/additional siblings) or $30/ child ($15/additional siblings) for SBYMCA members. This well-chaperoned program is the perfect alternative to a boring New Year's Eve for kids! They have a blast! You must preregister! Call 528-9622, ext. 2 for more details.

Firefighters Complete Flashover Training

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, whose home base is Stow, Massachusetts, came to Monterey for a full day on Sunday, November 3, bringing with them a flashover trailer in which they produced actual burn conditions for an intensive flashover recognition demonstration. Our volunteers were exposed to temperatures of 1300 degrees inside the trailer.

Flashover recognition exposure under actual conditions is critical for teaching firefighters to look out for signs of impending flashover because when flashover happens injuries and fatalities are imminent. Flashover is caused by thermal radiation feedback, as in a room on fire when heat absorbed into the ceiling and walls begins to radiate downward, igniting combustible gases and their contents, and simultaneously igniting the whole room in a sudden flash. One of the dangers that must be recognized in a fire is the potential of backdraft that causes sudden combustion when oxygen is accidentally or wrongfully introduced into an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.

Between 1980 and 1989, 455 firefighters died in structure fires in the United States; of these 44 were killed by flashover, making this extensive training experience critical. Seven firefighters also lost their lives when the training methods were first being developed, so on the training day in Monterey, members of the Academy spent the entire morning at the

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Firehouse covering every conceivable safety precaution and the effective use of protective clothing and S.C.B.A. gear. After a break for a buffet lunch, the firefighters moved on to the Town Garage property where the trailer had been set up.

During the actual training, instructors, inspectors, and rehabilitation crews stood by; each team inside was accompanied by an experienced leader and was watched from the outside by a thermal camera. The flashover trailer is constructed of corrugated layers of steel and consists of two compartments joined together, an upper one where the fire is ignited and a lower one where the firemen sit, as low as possible because of the intense heat. Each team of about five firefighters remained under these conditions for approximately fifteen minutes, during which they are monitored constantly. When they exited, they kept their arms extended away from their bodies because their clothing was so hot that touching anything would have caused a serious burn to themselves or others. They were then individually ushered to an Academy team of rehabilitation experts who followed a procedure to deactivate them from the stress and strain experienced by most going through this for the first time—a baptism by firestorm.

Firefighting today is getting more hazardous due to construction materials and components commonly used in newer structures. Modern materials and construction methods contribute to a greater potential for flashover. Bigger structures, high ceilings in large rooms, metal-lined doors, thermopane windows, constricting weather stripping and insulation, fiberglass, plastics, and synthetic carpet backing, individually and collectively, create greater potential problems than the smaller square frame houses of yesteryear.

So on this Sunday, as the flashover trailer was ignited periodically and the next team went in, clouds of black smoke rose in billowing columns over the Town Garage property. An ambulance and fire trucks were lined up at the ready, and water hoses were laid over the parking lot. Casual observers on the way to the transfer station were noticed doing double takes and rubbernecking, not knowing what all the activity was about. For most the seventh day is a day of rest, a break in the action, a time to give thanks for all the blessings we enjoy and for the security of a safe community that we all too often, but must not, take for granted.

We can be proud that the Monterey Fire Company has been a leader in working with other fire companies in the Southern Berkshire Fire Chiefs Association to meet the challenges of the Fire Academy regulations (as reported in the December 2001 issue of the *Monterey News*). The other fire companies participated in this exercise in a spirit of cooperation to integrate state training methods with local expertise, moving toward the goal of certification under a single set of fire codes.

— George Emmons

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Election Results in Monterey

On November 5, Election Day, 402 of the 610 registered voters in Monterey cast ballots at the polling station in the Firehouse. This 66 percent turnout was considerably higher than the national average, but, unsurprisingly, not as high as normal turnouts for presidential elections, which Town Clerk Barbara Swann reports is usually in the 80 to 90 percent range. Monterey election officials were also pleased that voters this year seemed more knowledgable about the mechanics of voting. More voters took advantage of the spoiled ballot replacement; there are no erasers on the pencils in the voting booths because there are supposed to be no erasures on the ballots, mainly because erasures make it more difficult for vote counters to determine the voter's intent. Each voter is allowed up to two replacements for a spoiled ballot. Also this year five citizens cast escrow, or provisional, ballots, which are allowed for citizens who would otherwise be eligible to vote but had not registered in time (twenty days before the election); such ballots are counted only for races where there is a tie after the regular ballots are counted (there were no ties this year).

And thanks to the twenty-one Montereyans, most of them volunteers

who worked at the polling station and/or helped count the votes.

The election results in Monterey were as follows:

U.S. Senator

John F. Kerry (Dem.)	283
Michael F. Cloud (Libertarian)	47
Forsberg (write-in)	31
Blank	41

U.S. Representative

John W. Olver (Dem.)	269
Matthew W. Kinnaman (Rep.)	131
Blank	2

Governor & Lt. Governor

Howell & Aucoin (Libertarian)	1
O'Brien & Gabrieli (Dem.)	251
Romney & Healey (Rep.)	105
Stein & Lorenzen (Green)	22
Johnson & Schebel (Ind.)	12
Blank	11

Attorney General

Thomas F. Reilly (Dem.)	308
Blank	94

Secretary of State

William F. Galvin (Dem.)	285
Jack E. Robinson, III (Rep.)	93
Blank	24

Treasurer

Timothy P. Cahill (Dem.)	205
Daniel A. Grabauskas (Rep.)	105
James O'Keefe (Green)	65
Blank	27

Auditor

A. Joseph DeNucci	251
Kamal Jain (Libertarian)	23
James J. Xenakis (Ind.)	65
Blank	63

Councillor

Edward M. O'Brien (Dem.)	291
Blank	111

State Senator

Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr. (Dem.)	292
William P. Foley (Ind. 3rd Parties)	56
Blank	54

State Representative

J. Christopher Irsfeld (Rep.)	73
William Smitty Pignatelli (Dem.)	157
Thomas H. Stokes (Ind.)	164
Blank	8

Berkshire District Attorney

Gerard D. Downing (Dem.)	307
Other	2
Blank	93

Berkshire Register of Probate

Francis B. Marinaro (Dem.)	299
Blank	103

Question One on the ballot, which if passed would have eliminated the state personal income tax, was defeated in Monterey, 129 yes, 258 no, blank 15. Question Two, which if passed would require that all school children in Massachusetts be taught classes in English, was approved by 203 yes, 179 no, blank 20. Question Three, a nonbinding question asking if taxpayer money should be used to fund political campaigns for public office in Massachusetts, was approved in Monterey by 215 yes, 174 no, blank 13. (Questions One and Three were defeated statewide, while Question Two was approved.)

— Will Marsh

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— Andrew Harvey, author of *The Direct Path*

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— Marion Woodman, author of *Addiction to Perfection*

Gutsy humor, outlandish language, serious tomfoolery.

— Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul*

Stockbridge Plain Students Visit Bidwell House

Stockbridge Plain students practice historical gardening methods at Bidwell House garden.

Ninety-seven fourth-grade students from Stockbridge Plain School visited The Bidwell House Museum over the course of two days in October to participate in the museum's Learning History Through The Land school program. This daylong program was developed with the assistance of Susan Coles and the support of other teachers at Stockbridge Plain School.

The students were divided into three groups who rotated through activities on the Interpretive Trail, in the Heirloom Vegetable Garden, and in the museum. Led by volunteer George Emmons, a member of the museum's board of directors, the students traveled the Interpretive Trail to learn how land use has changed over time. Students viewed stone cairns erected by Native Americans, stone fences constructed by colonists, explored the remnants of the Boston-Albany Post Road, and examined the site of the original meetinghouse. At the end of the Interpretive Trail, students participated in a mock archaeological dig under the direction of Candace Thayer, the Museum's Director.

At the Heirloom Vegetable Garden, the garden's caretaker Ann Hanchett introduced the students to historical gardening methods and tools and instructed them in the proper way to gather and preserve seeds for winter storage. The students also participated in pulling flax, a plant that is converted into linen. Composting and other methods of environmentally sound garden practices were also discussed, giving students an insight into historical gardening technology, the necessity of land preservation, and the vagaries of nature that colonists faced.

Volunteer Barbara Tryon, a retired schoolteacher, brought the Bidwell family and their times to life as she led the students on tours of the museum. The children learned how the house was used and changed by succeeding generations of Bidwells. Of particular interest to the students was the discussion of what life was like for children in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The students and the parents and teachers who accompanied them were enthusiastic about the program, as were the volunteers of The Bidwell House Museum. The museum's staff greatly appreciated the wonderful posters and letters from the students thanking them for a wonderful experience.

— Candace Thayer

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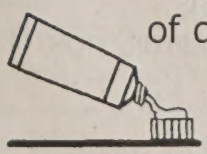

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Berkshire Hills Awarded State Green Schools Grant

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) has awarded a Renewable Energy Trust Green Schools Grant to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District's new middle school in Great Barrington, according to state Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

"The folks at the Berkshire Hills Regional School District deserve a lot of credit for recognizing the environmental and financial benefits that green technology will have at their new school," said Nuciforo. "Renewable energy represents a unique opportunity for us to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, while at the same time promoting clean technologies that will help us meet our future energy needs."

The Berkshire Hills Regional School District will receive a $130,000 design assistance grant, for the new middle school, which will include 25 kilowatts (kW) of solar panels mounted on the south-facing roof over the gym and cafeteria, and 25 kW of fuel cell generation capacity.

According to MTC officials, widespread community support for designing the school to be environmentally sensitive has led to the potential for a range of other "greening" opportunities as well, including the use of geothermal heat pumps, the selection of recycled content and low emitting materials in construction and finishing, and the use of a variety of energy and water efficient construction materials.

"The ultimate goal is to make green construction with energy efficiency and renewable energy the standard for new and renovated schools and buildings across the state," Mitchell Adams, MTC Executive Director, wrote to Nuciforo.

The Green Schools Initiative is a partnership between the MTC and the Massachusetts Department of Education. Award recipients have successfully competed for funds based on their commitment to building schools that provide healthier, more productive learning environments for Massachusetts's school children. The Legislature established the Renewable Energy Trust in 1998 to promote the development and use of renewable energy in the Commonwealth. This is widely viewed as an essential part of the state's energy shift toward greater reliance on renewable resources.

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December Activities at Fairview Hospital

Parkinson's Exercise Group: Mondays. 1–2 p.m., South Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Garage. Call 413-528-8600 ext. 3140. Referral required. $5/session.

Cholesterol, Blood Pressure and Glucose Screenings: Fridays. 9–noon. Drop-in. Free.

Helping Hearts Support Group: "Salt and Sensibility: Enjoying Meals while Maintaining a Better Salt and Fluid Balance," Kelly VanAllen, Registered Dietitian. December 11, 2:30 p.m., third-floor classroom.

Mom's Group: December 3 and 17, 10:30–noon. Support for Mom and Baby's First Year, with Gail Puntin, MSW, LICSW. Open to all. Free. Please preregister at 413-528-1470.

Moms with More: December 10, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Call 413-528-1470 to preregister and for more info. Call 413-528-0721 to arrange childcare.

Baby-sitter Training Classes: Saturdays, December 12 and 21, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Please preregister with Nanci Race at 413-228-3386. In Fairview Hospital's ground-floor classroom. Must attend both sessions for certification. Class size is limited; call early to reserve your spot!

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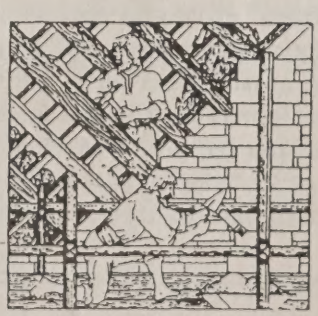

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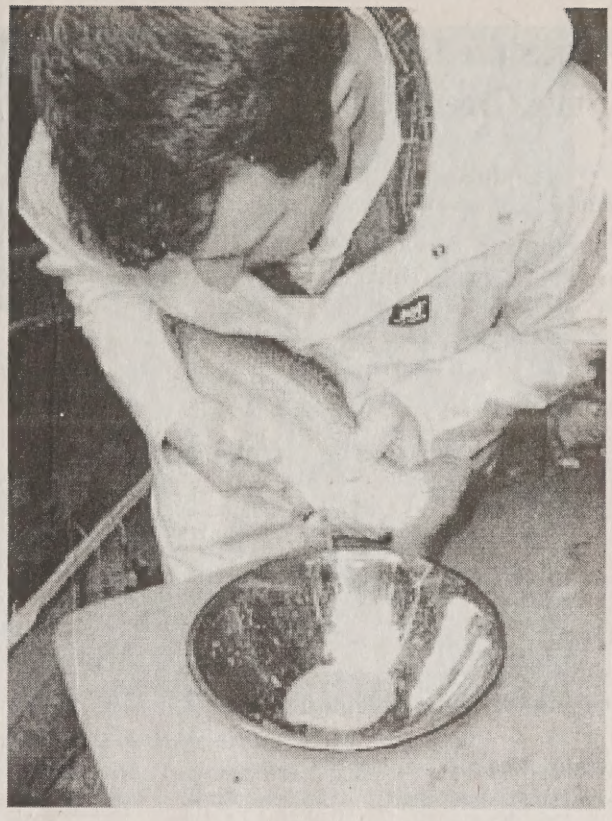
From the Fish Hatchery Porch: Autumn

In November, when the last colors slipped from the branches, yellow slickers brightened up the Hatchery grounds. The Hatchery workers, volunteers and boys from Kolburne School, donned these yellow suits and descended into the frothing pools. As individual fish were swept up in nets, eggs were gently squeezed from the females into a stainless steel bowl. Many agreed that it looked quite like tapioca pudding (of the inedible sort). It was estimated that 100,000 brown trout eggs and 70,000 rainbow trout eggs were harvested during this time. After fertilization, the eggs were transferred into wet trays located in the Kelt House. Little eyes can already be detected peering out from within the eggs. Most of these eggs will be hatching out by Christmas.

The Hatchery's projects are beginning to flourish and expand to the local community. An advisory board, made up of volunteers and local business people, will begin meeting quarterly to oversee projects and funding. A curriculum is being developed by the Hatchery to help teachers and group leaders to raise and stock trout according to sustainable aquaculture standards. At Mt. Everett High School an aquaponics project is being completed and the Hatchery is providing fish for their tanks. A plan for this type of project is intended to expand to schools throughout western Massachusetts.

On a more somber note, Shelby, a nearly three-year Hatchery resident, had to be put to sleep on November 15th. She was a playful pup with great spunk, her bouncing presence is deeply missed on the Hatchery grounds. Many thanks go to all those who have befriended her over the years and offered sympathy in her passing. A special thanks to the boys from Kolburne School, some of her favorite friends, who brought all a dog dreams of—a damp tennis ball and a good buddy. Without Shelby, the wild turkeys have become brazen and walk the Hatchery in squawking flocks. The lower residence awaits its new tenant and the eggs await transformation into swimming fish. Life has its way of ending and beginning, never quite taking pause in these seasons of growth and change.



Melissa Hamilton

Hatchery director Keith Wilda extracting trout eggs

Winter snows will soon be blanketing the fish tents and forest. The Kettle Loop Trail is an inviting walk for those looking for a leisurely stroll just right for small feet. Afternoon fish feedings and tours are also an enjoyable excursion for those seeking activity in the winter months. In the spring, watch for workshops at the Hatchery on topics such as: tracking, taxonomy, plant identification, fly fishing and more.

— Melissa Hamilton

Shelby

Melissa Hamilton

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Molly Amstead got a pony ride at Community Day fund-raiser for New Marlborough Central School playground.

Rain No Damper to New Marlborough Playground Benefit

Community Day organizers Anita Cook and Paula Ormsbee were determined that the efforts to raise money for the new playground equipment at the New Marlborough Central School would not be dampened by a little rainy weather on this past Columbus Day weekend. The event was held on the rain date, Sunday, and supporters were undaunted by the still damp weather. The many activities kept the children busy, busy, busy, and then David Grover settled them down with his delightful entertainment. Crafts booths, a tag sale, and food rounded out the day.

We are not quite halfway to our goal, so please keep in mind that donations are always welcome, and if given before December 31 are tax-deductible for this year. We would welcome any ideas for future fund-raisers as well.

If you have any questions regarding this worthy project that will benefit students from Monterey, please call Theresa Amstead, 528-1853, or Linda Thorpe, 528-2164.

— Linda Thorpe

Senator Says

Democratic Convention Coming to Boston

The Commonwealth received excellent news when the Democratic National Committee (DNC) recently announced that Boston will host the 2004 Democratic National Convention, scheduled to begin the week of July 26, 2004. The nation, and indeed the world, will be watching, and I know that Boston is prepared for the task. Boston is a natural selection for a political convention, as the nation's political and ideological roots can be traced to this historic region of the country. Ironically, Boston has never been the site of a major national party convention. Nevertheless, the DNC voted unanimously to select Boston as the site over Detroit, Miami, and New York City.

Regardless of party affiliation-Governor-elect Romney has even praised the news. I am confident that residents of western Massachusetts will recognize the economic potential this convention will have throughout the Commonwealth. By some accounts, the convention at the Fleet Center could bring $156 million in business and tax revenue. The convention will raise the Commonwealth's profile nationally, and internationally, and will bring more than 50,000 journalists, delegates, and tourists to our politically active state. I very much look forward to participating in the convention and, at the same time, promoting the western part of the state to tourists and journalists alike.

In the coming months, the DNC will be providing state and local officials with more information about the delegate selection process, volunteering, and

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a range of other matters. I will certainly pass that information along to interested constituents.

Speaking of Politics

I am grateful for the overwhelming support that you showed to me in the recent election. As you may know, I received 83 percent of the vote in my bid for reelection to the Massachusetts Senate. The challenges we face are great, yet we must not allow a sluggish economy to dampen our determination to provide services and opportunities to those that need them most. Our tasks should include: improving economic opportunities for our citizens, investing in public education, providing our seniors with affordable and accessible prescription drug coverage, and protecting our natural resources. We must also not lose sight of protecting our homeland from those who threaten our freedom and democracy.

As always, please feel free to contact my district office at 413-442-6810 or website (www.nuciforo.com) with any state-related questions, comments, or concerns you may have. Have a safe Holiday Season and Happy New Year.

— State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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Literacy Network Volunteer Training

The Literacy Network of South Berkshire (LNSB), a one-on-one adult literacy program based at the Lee Library on Main Street, is offering a hands-on, five-session training for volunteers wishing to learn how to teach adults basic reading and English as a Second Language and help prepare them for the GED (high school equivalency examination). Given the downturn in the economy, the Literacy Network has an increased need for new tutors.

The first week of the training, entitled "Teaching Adults, Learning Disabilities, 'Secrets' of English, Teaching Reading, & More," will be Monday, December 2, Tuesday, December 3, and Wednesday, December 4. These will be led by Literacy Network cofounders Zoë Dalheim and Peg Smith, who are specialists in teaching adults with learning disabilities and teaching adults how to read. Joining them will be Literacy Network Education Director Karen Shreefter.

The second week, entitled "Teaching English as a Second Language," will be Monday, December 9, and Wednesday, December 11. The Monday session will focus on those individuals with little or no English and will be led by Literacy Network ESOL Coordinator Judy Waters. The Wednesday session will be led by ESOL Specialist Christine Polk and will focus on individuals with some English. All sessions are free and run from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Lee Library on Main Street in Lee. Space is limited, and those interested should call 413-243-0471 or email kamash@aol.com by November 22 to register.

LNSB Education Director Karen Shreefter noted, "The primary qualifications for being a tutor are: patience, attendance at trainings, preparation for tutoring sessions, and a commitment to your student."

For over a decade the Literacy Network has trained almost three hundred volunteer tutors to work with adults in South County. Tutors and students meet at mutually convenient times and places in South Berkshire.

According to the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education, "Almost 45 percent of Massachusetts adults lack the educational foundation needed to achieve their family, community, and employment-related goals."

Monterey-New Marlborough PTA Christmas Fair

The annual Monterey-New Marlborough PTA Christmas Fair will be held at New Marlborough Central School in Mill River on Saturday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be wonderful crafts for sale, as well as one-of-a-kind ornaments made by the children, with proceeds going to benefit worthy PTA projects throughout the year. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and raffle tickets will also be on sale to benefit the school playground. Please join us!

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The Hunter

Love me, says the amber child
hazel-eyed and acorn-breasted
leafy-haired, springing up
away from the colonnade of tree trunks
hall into darkness
wild and silent woods
into the dim past
ringing to senses primeval.

My hands grope, stained by sunlight
like a shaft of blood
and the green vacuum of time waits
filled with little furry beasts
scampering into holes
to the dark bracken of past impression.

I do, I tell her, I do.
I did once when the world was young
and my beard ungrown —
when my skin was sweet as yours
we lay by the pools
dipping fingers in moonlight
drinking our kisses, the stars beneath us.

You laughed and the heron
flew up into the morning.
I left my first spear in the moss behind you
a tree now
over the waters of longing.
And because I left you
disarmed by passion
seedless and cold
I fell into the deathbear's arms
and did not care.
You buried me a hundred times
in a thousand cycles of the sun —
corn in the clearing grew from my skull
and fed our children's children.

* * *

Love me, says the amber child,
golden-flecked and acorn-breasted —

I shake my head and snap the back
with my boot of a branch
down the road a truck sounds
far away grey
I am holding a gun got
from the multicolored catalog
at the office.
I cannot reach to you anymore!
it is embarrassing
to a hunter from another time

a contesseration
of leaves golden falling
in the autumn wind
is what you are.
I am real and now afraid
to believe.
I know, says the amber child:
the rains are sighing
beyond the black hills
singing the hurt of the world
without you
I know, she says simply
a final winter is coming
and you, hunter, become the prey
yourself without magic
you will bring death to the dead
in your hearing.

Later at the campfire
the coffee tasted bitter
and my heart swollen
with forgotten faith.

— A. O. Howell

ominous embryo/birth of a star

dark clouds gathering in the west
anxious ominous embryo
in a time when the end of night
and the beginning of night
seemed separated by the flee-
ting glimpse of a paranoid sun

Bro Nello and Baby Rolo
were down in the old root cellar
deliberating the long night's menu
when they were interrupted by
a Knock! Knock! Knock! from Above
immediately they chanted:
"opening the door before us
standing in front of one another
we are ready for the giving"
Above then asked "which way now?"
to which Baby Rolo replied,
wide eyed, wild haired, daikon in hand
pointing to the morning star, "yes!"
Bro Nello in his tall humor,
black radish in one hand, turnip
in the other, began to thump
and hum and dance an old folk song:
"oh, this little light of mine
yeah, I'm gonna let it shine
oh, this little light of mine
yeah, I'm gonna let it shine
oh, this little light of mine
yeah, I'm gonna let it shine
let it shine
let it shine
let it shine"

the menu was now decided
and Above came down to be fed

— R. Zukowski

Utopia

After a long day,
I readily,
Happily
Sink
Into the depths of
My hiding place.
I glide through water,
Refreshed.
I do not need air,
But instead stay down
Forever
In my secret world
Of dreams.
I am relaxed here,
Reluctant to leave,
To rocket upward
Toward the sun
Away from the quiet
Peacefulness of
My bed.

— Rebecca Sisselman

Sewing

She fumbles with the blouse.
Squinting, her trained eyes consider the job.
She lays out her plan,
A sly fox observing its prey.

She struggles to thread the needle
And pricks herself,
Drawing a drop of blood,
Brushed away impatiently.

She sews fluenly now,
Hand darting to and fro swiftly,
Like rushing water
A flowing motion.

— Rebecca Sisselman

From the Meetinghouse

An Eternal Election

I went to the theatre a few weeks ago, the theatre at the high school where I teach. Many of my students were in the production, a weaving together of three plays, *The Fever* by Wallace Shawn, *Scenes from an American Life* by A. R. Gurney, and *In the Blood* by Suzan-Lori Parks. The common theme was the yawning global gap between rich and poor. The common thread was despair.

There are few things more disturbing than to hear an educated seventeen-year-old, one for whom opportunity knocks at least once a day, say, "The life I live is irredeemably corrupt. It has no justification. I keep thinking that there's this justification that I've written down somewhere, on some little piece of paper, that I can't remember what's on the piece of paper, but that it's sitting in the drawer of some desk in some room in some place I used to live. But in fact I'll never find that little piece of paper, because there isn't one. It doesn't exist. There's no piece of paper that justifies what the beggar has and what I have.... I don't actually deserve to have a thousand times more than the beggar has. I don't deserve to have two crusts of bread more."

There are few ideas more distressing than these coming from the mouths, if not the minds, of those almost but not quite old enough to vote: "My feeling in my heart a sympathy for the poor does not change the life of the poor. My believing fervently in gradual change does not change the life of the poor. Parents who teach their children good values do not change the life of the poor. Artists who create works of art that inspire sympathy and good values do not change the life of the poor. Citizens inspired by artists and parents to adopt good values and to feel sympathy for the poor and to vote for sincere politicians who believe fervently in gradual change do not change the life of the poor, because sincere politicians who believe fervently in gradual change do not change the life of the poor."

The play, entitled *A Few Graceful Turns on the Way Down,* was intended to disturb and distress its audience, if not its young actors—for perhaps they were already disillusioned before they began work on the production. Perhaps they had already discovered that what grown-ups had told them about being able to become whatever they wanted when they grew up was not true if what they wanted to be when they grew up was a citizen in an equitable society, if what they wanted to be when they grew up was in peace with all people, with animals too, with all creation. Perhaps they had already seen through the illusion of what they would in fact become: a wealthy Western collector of stuff and producer of garbage, considered successful in the Sisyphean striving of the twelve-hour workday—pushing that rock to the top of the hill once and for all, again and again—that would make it possible for them to lease the SUV of their dreams. Perhaps they had already seen that illusion dissipate, as disillusion made of each of their lives—that story they were writing, once seeming so full of meaning and morality, neatly written words on thirsty white paper—a dark, bleared stain, like ink spilled, ruined. Perhaps this script just gave them language for an experience they long had known.

And to despond or to respond was a decision left up to each of us—in the audience, in the cast—as the play did not resolve the question for us, offered us no redemption or resurrection following this graceful, upper–middle-class trip down. To despair or to hope was a question left for each of us to ponder as we drove home through the premature dark of November in New England, many of us perhaps alone in our cars.

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To despair or to hope is the eternal election that we face, most acutely now in this new millennium, an election that makes postmodern meaning of the classical Christian concept of the elect and the damned.

To despair or to hope? These are the choices in the election of the new millennium, and when we elect hope we are among the elect, whereas when we elect despair—*desperare*, Latin for "without hope"—we damn ourselves to that outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

To despond or to respond? These are the choices in the eternal election—*spond* being Latin for "to promise," to despond meaning to give up on a promise, to respond meaning to promise in return, to accept responsibility meaning to own up to the outcome of the promise in return. And when we elect response and responsibility, we are among the elect, whereas when we elect despondency, we elect to reject God's promises to us as we elect to reject promising ourselves in return, in effect electing to eject ourselves to that outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

To receive God, given to us in perfection even as we are imperfection, or to be deceived by the world that wants us to serve its meaningless purposes? These are the choices in the true election, the pro forma election of America now sadly behind us, a missed opportunity for many who had already elected despair and despondency and the deception that there is nothing we can do that will make any difference at all, except perhaps for making war.

These are the choices in the true and eternal election: to receive or to be deceived? to respond or to despond? to hope or to despair?

These are the choices that we face now, as we have always faced, but now stripped naked of the mythology that modernity sought to overcome, now stripped naked even of the myth that was modernity—that science would make all things clear, that technology would make all things possible, that new weaponry would bring an end to war, that medicine would bring an end to death, that enlightenment would bring an end to mystery and to our humiliating unknowing. Yes! an end to the humility that humanity would no longer deserve—now recognized as the delusion it always was.

These are the choices that, as we have always faced, we face now.

Albert Camus claimed in his collection of essays *The Myth of Sisyphus*, published in 1955, that we must think clearly and hope no more.

The religions of the Book all seek to move us in a different direction. Testifying to generations of promises offered, accepted, fulfilled, the religions of the Book all seek to move us not toward merely thinking clearly, but as well toward testifying truthfully to the power of faith to sustain hope and the power of hope to sustain life. Pastor and theologian Albert Eustace Haydon put it this way: "Religion is the mother of dreams. Over the gray world, ruined by deluge and death, it has sought ever and found the arching rainbow of hope."

And perhaps at no time of year does this physically manifest itself so clearly as during this darkest month, December, when Jews light candles to remember the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrians and thus the worship of God over the worship of the world, when Christians await the birth of Christ under a new and bright star and thus the dawn of the revelation that life need not merely be a sickness unto death but everlasting and ever-blessed, and when Muslims practice their fasting for atonement that they might witness to the purity and holiness of God.

Truly, religion ever seeks, over this gray world ruined by darkness and deluge and death, the arching rainbow of hope. And therefore the world needs us, we who practice our faith, not to preach at it, not to attempt piously to save it, not to judge it as to condemn it, not to threaten it with images of that outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, but to realize in it—to make manifest here and now—the compassionate, courageous, eternal love of God, and to dare to enter into those places of despair where already there is weeping and gnashing of teeth as to witness to the truth that, lo, even there God is with us as promised in the hope that we might elect to respond.

— Elizabeth Goodman

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My Meeting with a Lion

This is some country. I took a trip by plane in November and felt like a character in a science fiction story, an astronaut who has travelled to a planet remarkably like Earth, and yet so different.

From my home planet, that is to say New England, I left in the first winter nor'easter. My space ship lifted off from a familiar landscape of slush and snow, and shot through a thick flannel blanket to a fantasy world of sunset colors, deep velvet shadows, and soft repeating patterns of cloudscape not far below me. All Earth's cares, from the weather to the USA Patriot Act, were left far behind as I and my shipload of chosen ones skimmed through this glory, this indescribable beauty beyond art, beyond Earth.

Finally we landed. Here palm trees grew, and great curving bridges spanned vast sparkling waters. The Sun rose to landward and set over the sea. Maybe this new planet had a reverse rotation?

I was experiencing that conflict that comes of a lovely dream somewhat marred by inklings of disloyalty, small but nasty. They were knocking on my door like the pesky character on the other side of the computer screen. "He" is shaped like a paper clip and has bright ideas about how to organize a letter. When I ignore him he goes "tink, tink!" on his side of the glass. "Tink, tink," went my home familiars. Remember us? Firewood, hibernation?

So it was with some relief that I at last found myself face to face with an old pal from home. This meeting was unexpected. A California beach, an exotic turquoise chiton shell washed up from the west, ice plants in reds, greens and rusty browns, spilling over the dunes. We walked into a small trailside museum, and there on the "hands on" shelf was a good old black bear skull.

"Ah!" I said with a smile. "You are an ambassador from home, and an interplanetary traveler like myself." I picked up her skull and she smiled with all her teeth—What?! I'd been deceived. This was no Berkshire bear, but some bizarre hoax. She had the right number of incisors, but they were miserable little things. One might overlook such anomalies, but where were her grinders? She had no molars worthy of the name, as far as I could see, nor even any holes in her jaw where such teeth ought to be.

Her proud sagittal crest ran along the top of her skull, for attaching serious jaw muscles, and her canines and side cutters were everything one could wish for. But something told me she was not the bear she might be.

"What *is* this?" I asked. "Not a bear?"

"California sea lion," said the volunteer ranger, named Bob. He was filling in forms, not feeling talkative. Check the box for one more visitor from bear country, weirded out by sea lion skull.

A few days later I got on the spaceship and sped east to my home longitudes, firewood, more snow. But my sea lion journey continues and here is what I've found. In California, on Point Reyes where we went one day, one may encounter sea lions of two different sorts. Both are seals, though, and both have come close to extinction at the hands of human hunters who value their meat, hides, and fat. Some sold their long stiff whiskers to the Chinese for cleaning opium pipes. Some believed the testicles of sea lions could be rejuvenating for male humans and some made little pouches of their gall bladders.

Now the sea lions are protected by law, at least from the law-abiding among humans, and their only predators are sharks and killer whales. Sea lions range up and down the Pacific coast of North America from Mexico to the Bering Strait and from there southwest to Japan. Other

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species live along the coasts of South America and Antarctica.

In some species of sea lions the males have thick fur on the neck, like a mane, and there can be much roaring. Sea lions are also known for their barking and the Spanish-speaking people used to call them *lobos marinos* or sea wolves.

I watched a group of about forty on the beach in Drake's Bay, Point Reyes National Seashore. High up on the beach there were about fifteen, lying in a long row like blond lengths of firewood, a bit swollen in the middle. Farther down there were some couples faced off, one against one, pushing up and down the beach. With their long strong necks up and their big bear jaws open, they mouthed each other and groaned and moaned, shoving first up toward the ice plants and then back down toward the water. It was like a version of boxing or wrestling in which the combatants are required to keep their arms pinned to their sides and although they can wave their jaws they cannot really bite.

Sea lions are big and strong, some bulls weighing as much as 2,200 pounds. I didn't see any that big, I am sure, but I was impressed with how long they could keep up this pushing, plainly out of their element there on the beach. Eventually, one would get sick of it and just drop to the ground, nose out flat like my dog Ruby when I tell her "Down!" and she thinks there will be a dog biscuit coming if she can just get *very* down.

The cow sea lions are smaller than the bulls, more like 750 pounds, and the skull I saw was that of a cow, the ranger said. They give birth to single pups in July and are ready to mate again in a few hours. The pups nurse on very rich milk, 50 percent fat, as compared with cow's milk which is about 3.5 percent fat, and in a month or two they double their weight and swim in that cold north Pacific. The northern sea lions travel south from their breeding grounds in Alaska, and even the California sea lions move some ways south as cooler weather comes. In November, at Point Reyes, which is just north of San Francisco, there are two kinds of sea lions and even elephant seals that might be basking or squabbling on the beach.

Sea Lion
Right rear flipper
(from a photo from Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London)

Although they do not look much like black bears on the outside, their bones tell the tale, especially their skulls. It turns out the sea lions and land bears are descended from a common ancestor. Some took to the sea and turned their forelimbs into flippers. No more grasping or standing on food for ripping and tearing it into pieces. The sea lions, seals, walruses and elephant seals gulp their food. They may chomp it once or twice on the way down, but mostly those fish and squids go into the belly in big pieces or whole. Our black bears are dexterous and omnivorous. They can pick apart ant nests and nibble blackberries, and for this they need clever front paws and good little incisors. They are capable swimmers, but without flippers they would never make a living chasing squid.

I am glad to be home to my local neighbors, but my recent encounter with the skull of a sea lion has reminded me of my connections with the land of the ocean sunset and of the importance of ancient ancestors. I have come back to earth, to northeast weather and the news, but I feel bigger and wiser thanks to sea lions.

— Bonner J. McAllester

ॐ

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Travel Opportunities

All through this month and through January 11, 2003, the Quilt Museum in Lowell is hosting a show of contemporary work from the Far East: "Quilts Expressively Korean." I might not have been so attracted to, or, perhaps, even noticed the information in that quilt magazine, but my extended family expanded last October to include my newest cousin. He was born in South Korea, and I'd been planning his welcome quilt when I saw the ad.

So I may be looking at the quilts in the show in Lowell with an eye to answering several questions. Is it time to buy more fabric? (Aha!) If so, do I want to include some oriental prints? And, perhaps most important of all, Am I overthinking this? (Maybe I'll just get going on the quilt and enjoy the show for its own sake.)

The Quilt Museum is located at 18 Shattuck Street in Lowell. It will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but otherwise will be open Tuesday-Saturday, 10–4 (in December, also on Sundays, 12–4). Admission is only $4.

If that isn't on your agenda, perhaps this will entice you. Alice Howell sent me information about another travel opportunity for the quilt-delighted. She'd cut Peter Plagens' art column, "A Quilting Bee Bounty," from the November 18th issue of *Newsweek*.

There are twenty million quilters in the U.S., Mr. Plagens assures us. Then he announces a show of quilts, "The Quilts of Gee's Bend," at the Whitney Museum in New York, now through March 2. The pieces in the show were made by about forty women, quilters whose work was created between 1920 and 2000. They reflect "a painterly approach to working with textiles" and are on display in the Peter Norton Family Galleries on the third floor of the museum.

In Mr. Plagens' words, Gee's Bend, Alabama, sounds a bit like Old Monterey, or even the cold-weather version—well, maybe the mud-season version—of Monterey Today: "a remote ... riverside town of less than 1,000 people." That may be the extent of the similarity, though; here we are not a community anyone could describe as "dirt-poor". (Let's face it: even our dirt is valuable, as farm land and as real estate.) Most of the local artists and craftspeople are Caucasian, not African American, and most of us are not practicing our arts with salvaged materials and/or skills taught to us by our grandmothers.

Nevertheless, it sounds like Gee's Bend and Monterey are both rich places for harvesting beauty. So be on the lookout for it, whether your search takes you to Lowell, to Manhattan, or simply to the banks of the Konkapot behind the library, general store and post office. And a blessing on the planet that's home to all three places, now and through the new year!

— MaryKate Jordan

Holiday Marketplace at Berkshire Botanical Garden

The twelfth annual Berkshire Botanical Garden's Holiday Marketplace will take place December 7–8, coincident with the traditional "Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas" weekend. This year's theme is "Accents of Italy," an idea suggested by Garden volunteers.

For those who want to do their holiday shopping early and quickly, the Holiday Marketplace is appealing. First off, there is a huge selection of all sorts of holiday decorations, all handmade by members and friends of the Garden.

Local and regional artisans are another important source of tempting products, including unique designer wreaths, swags, and "kissing balls." A special tent, the Gallery of Wreaths, uses a "windows and doors" display style, with wreaths actually mounted on window frames and doors. Other artisans include Owl's Head Products, selling their cast-iron planters. And the products of Mostrom & Chase Handweavers of Housatonic will remind visitors of the importance of "buy local" campaigns

Those in need of indoor greenery will enjoy the colorful holiday potted plants provided by the Garden staff. Seasonal blooms such as amaryllis, paper-

Botanical pottery from the Berkshires...

Holiday Open House Weekends

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whites, and cyclamen are popular choices.

Intense shopping can make even the most stout-hearted consumer hungry, a condition that can be quickly satisfied by the select food purveyors at the Marketplace. Guido's will be selling "gourmet goodies" and pasta, as well as providing cooking demonstrations. Popovitch Provisions, a Hudson Valley gourmet firm, will be selling fresh sausages and cheeses. Snacks and refreshments will also be available for purchase.

Last year's Holiday Marketplace raised $20,000 (that's net!) for the Garden, and John Parker, Executive Director of the Garden, reports, "We expect to do at least that well this year."

Wreaths like this one will be available in the Gallery of Wreaths at the Botanical Garden's Holiday Marketplace.

The Holiday Marketplace is one of four seasonal fund-raising events hosted by BBG. In the spring, there's the wildly popular Plant Sale, providing a wide-range of high quality annuals and perennials. Most of the plants are brought in from select regional growers. Many of the annuals are raised in the Garden, so buyers can be assured of their suitability in the Berkshires environment. Another important element of the Plant Sale's success is the presence of specialty growers who share their intimate knowledge of specialized gardening, such as vendors of rock garden plants and heirloom and organic vegetables. Thus, buyers are assured of excellent plant stock and important cultivation information.

The midsummer Fete, a traditional benefit cocktail party, is now organized around honoring a community member for exemplary participation. Held at historic Elm Court in Lenox, this year's Fete honored Jane and Jack Fitzpatrick, philanthropic legends of the Berkshires. Starting next year, the Fete will also host the large silent auction that currently resides at the Harvest Festival.

The Harvest Festival is the Garden's most venerable fund-raiser, having started sixty-eight years ago when the Garden was founded in 1934. As John Parker points out, "Harvest Festival is the longest running and largest community event in the Berkshires." Oriented to family fun, the Harvest Festival has games, crafts, food, music, and, of course, plants.

Events as complicated as weekend sales, silent auctions, and festive parties wouldn't be possible without the large and devoted group of volunteers that the Garden has harvested. About 450 volunteers work year round, not just organizing fund-raising parties, but also helping with horticulture, education, and membership.

The Holiday Marketplace is from 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Saturday, December 7, and Sunday, December 8. For those who want a head start on holiday buying, there is a cocktail reception on Friday, December 6, with a preview and early sale of merchandise, along with a small silent auction; dinner featuring the food and wines of Italy follows. Seating for the dinner is limited, so anyone interested should call early. Reservations for the December 6th activities can be made at 413-298-3926.

— Laurily Epstein

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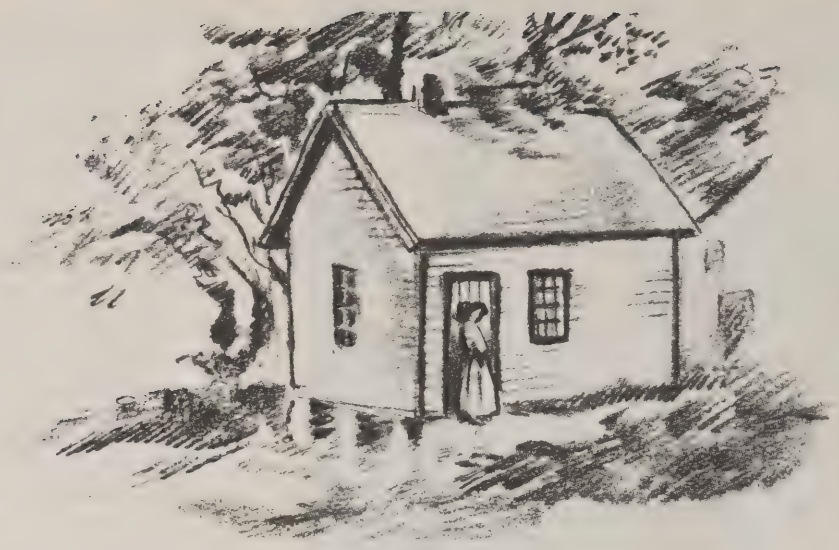

The Monterey Library: 1902

Librarian Anne Marie Makuc recently came across some old reports on the condition of the Monterey Free Library that may be of interest. They were written for the Annual Town Reports.

As Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees, I beg leave to present the following report of the condition of the Free Library:

Its patronage remains about the same as last year, and there is no pleasanter sight to look upon than that of the young people going to the shelves, examining and selecting books. About 30 volumes were added last summer. The 1st of November the Woman's Education Association loaned us a new "Traveling Library," and soon after the new year the State gave us 52 volumes of new books at a valuationof $50, and we have $50 more standing to our credit with the Massachusetts Free Library Commission. In the summer the usefulness of the library was impaired by a severe storm. The building was nearly wrecked, and the books had to be removed. The same has now been put in safe and good repair. the building and contents have been properly insured. Thanks are due to the Young Ladies' Guild and the Village Improvement Society for their very substantial aid in repairing the building.

Mr. Scott of Tyringham gave the library and its patrons a most interesting and valuable lecture on the three R's.

From the treasurer's report I make the following abstract:

1901 Balance from 1900	$3.00
Appropriation 1901	$40.00
	$43.00

1901–2 Expended for books	$25.00
Salary of librarian	$10.00
Paid in repairs	$8.00
	$43.00

The incidental expenses of the library, such as oil, ink, etc., are met by fines in our due books.

— E. D. Harmon, Chairman Trustees.
Monterey, March 12, 1902.

P.O. Box 9

Kudos to Johnson, McAllester

To the Editor,

I want to commend two of your writers: Michael Johnson and Bonner McAllester (twice) for their articles in the November 2002 *News*.

Mr. Johnson has written an important message about the United Nations, the organization that the world's hopes for peace depend on and that is too often written off as just a place for talk. But it's talk—negotiation, compromise, hearing what other people think, working out treaties—that offers hope for a less warlike world.

Bonner McAllester has not only brought us up to date on turkeys (almost our national bird instead of the predator eagle), but told of her participation in the huge and under-reported antiwar demonstration in Washington. Thanks for going to march in D.C. as a representative from Monterey, Bonner, and thanks for telling us about it. A lot of us were with you in spirit.

— Dean Allen, Monterey and Amherst

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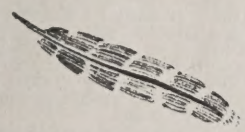
Horrid Comparison

To the Editor:

Elizabeth Goodman wrote in the October issue of the *Monterey News*, "this attack [September 11] pales in comparison to what Israel did with American weaponry to Palestinians in Lebanon in the early 1980s." Israel never intentionally attacked civilians in Lebanon. What is the basis for this horrid comparison? Perhaps she is thinking of the Lebanese Christians who killed Muslim civilians while routing out gunmen among them. Christians kill Muslims so the Jews are blamed? "Lovers of the Lord—despise evil" (Psalm 97).

— Louis Kerlinsky, Longmeadow, MA



Clarification

To the Editor:

I am writing to clarify the point I intended to make in my column "From the Meetinghouse" in October, which was to consider forgiveness as a response to the attacks of September 11th and the increasingly confusing conflicts of the Middle East. In making this point, I hoped to address a cheap brand of forgiveness that I have heard spoken of, one that seems to imply that, given the international dealings in which the United States has been involved, we as a nation somehow "deserved" this attack. This is justification, not forgiveness. My reference to Israel was merely one example of many versions of this that I have heard and read, which I chose for no significant reason. I of course do realize that the conflict between Israel and Palestine is extremely complex. I stand by my advocacy for forgiveness, but I regret that I may have obscured my true meaning by a comment that, although it was not my intent, may have been seen as mentioning too casually what is a most serious situation.

— Elizabeth Goodman, Monterey

Beauty and The Beast

To the Editor,

We live in Sandisfield, just over the line, but work in Monterey. I drive the Monterey Feeder Bus in fact and get all over Monterey. One of my concerns is the trash all over the area, both in Monterey, Sandisfield, and all other communities. I wrote this for the *Sandisfield News* a few months ago and when reading a back issue of the *Monterey News* was impressed with Sue Protheroe's article, "Thoughts on Trash," in the June issue. Perhaps this will help clean up the area.

Beauty: The Berkshires! Have you recently considered what a marvelous area this is to live in? Has the old expression "Familiarity breeds contempt" settled in to your outlook? Have you stopped to observe and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us here? Consider the exceptional beauty of the woods, winding, sometimes rushing streams. Think about the four distinct and aggressive seasons with all the variety and beauty they provide. We are currently experiencing a dull period as winter is approaching, but we will soon see spring again with all the gracious grandeur as our spectacular vegetation bounds to life after resting for the winter.

Consider the beauty of summer with the cool breezes, low humidity. Think about autumn with the splendid beauty of many trees turning their colors and preparing themselves for their winter slumber. Then there is winter. Winter can be a hard time of the year with the cold, but what beauty we are able to enjoy with the ski slopes and other winter opportunities many parts of the country are without.

The Beast: The Trash! Have you driven around these beautiful winding roads and hills and noticed all the trash along the sides, in the gutters, and in the fields? I don't know where this trash comes from, if it is thrown out by local folks or from vehicles passing through. Perhaps every piece comes from visitors. In any case what can we do about it? This is our "home" land. If we had guests coming to our home we would probably make sure things were clean and tidy. The Berkshires is a place people come to visit and enjoy. Can we somehow be conscientious about keeping it clean?

Some of this trash is probably accidental such as the little piece of paper that is blown out a car window or off the back of a truck on the way to the dump. I've never actually observed a beer can being thrown out of a car window onto the side of the road and don't know how I'd react if I did. My rage at it would probably prompt me to take their license number and report it. The pile of old drywall that was dumped at the Monterey/Sandisfield turnaround on the Hubbard/Sandisfield Road area certainly wasn't any accident. I got that cleaned up.

Let's resolve to be part of the beautification solution rather then part of the problem.

— Paul Dixon, Sandisfield

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Remembering Ann M. Lavallée

Poetry Contributor

Ann M. LaVallée, 71, of 83 Plunkett St., Lenox, died November 16 at Berkshire Medical Center after a brief illness.

Born in Frankfort, N.Y., on April 23, 1931, daughter of Michael and Rose Dunadee Catlin, she attended schools there. She was also a graduate of the former Berkshire Business College.

Prior to her marriage, she was employed as a bookkeeper at the former Eaton Paper Co.

A published poet, she was a member of the Haiku Society of America. Her haikus appeared frequently in the *Monterey News.* For many years, she contributed to the Letters to The Editor of *The Berkshire Eagle.* In recent years, she was an active volunteer at St. Joseph's Kitchen at South Congregational Church and was the program clerk for the Lenox Friends Worship Group. She was also a supporter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Earlier, she served as a Brownie and Girl Scout leader and as a teacher in the St. Ann's Church religious education programs. She was active in a number of organizations, including the Berkshire Chamber Soloists and the Chaucer-Saucer Discussion Group, which during the 1990s she served as chairwoman.

She and her husband, Gerard W. LaVallée, were married June 25, 1949.

Besides her husband, she leaves a daughter, Adrienne Kernan LaVallée of Lenox and Manchester, N.H.; a brother, Carl Catlin of Texas; and five sisters, Rosemary Francoeur and Dolores Colwell, both of Cheshire, Ida May Cacicio and Frances Polidoro, both of Pittsfield, and Carmelita Mitchell of Dalton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society in care of Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main St., Lenox, MA 01240.

Personal Notes

Celebrating December birthdays are **Stefan Grotz** on the 1st, **Graham & Madigan Hines** on the 3rd, **Karen Schulze** on the 5th, **Jacob Edelman** on the 7th and **Simon Spagnoletti** who marks his 21st also on the 7th, **Mike Mielke** on the 8th, **Natasha Grotz** on the 12th, **Stacy Ingher** and **Morgan Clawson** on the 20th, **Don Amstead** on the 25th, **Jon Sylbert** on the 26th, **Eliana Schulze** and **Eloisa Shapiro** on the 27th and **Jon Pratt** on the 28th.

Looking Back

Did you know that according to the Annual Report of the Officers of the Town of Monterey for the year ending December 31, 1922, the:

- Number of residents assessed on property was 100.
- Number of nonresidents assessed on property was 132.
- Number of polls assessed was 102.
- Poll tax only was 38.
- Total number of persons assessed was 270.
- Value of personal estate was $92,921.
- Value of real estate was $423,791.
- Total valuation of town was $516,712.
- Tax assessed on personal property was $1,561.08.
- Tax assessed on real estate was $7,119.65.
- Total poll tax assessed was $510.00.
- Total tax assessed $9,190.73.
- Rate of taxation per $1,000 was $16.80.
- Number of dwelling houses assessed was 206.
- Number of acres of land assessed was 12,298.25.

Is there someone out there who can explain about the "poll"?

Please remember to share any items of interest you may have for this column by sending it to me at POB 211 by the 15th of the month. If you don't, we don't have much to print.

— Deborah Mielke

Contributors

We are grateful to the following people for their recent contributions to the *Monterey News.*

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Mark & Joan Abramowitz
Eileen Clawson
David & Jean Balderston

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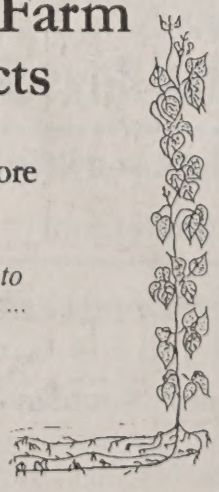

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Deer Hunting Season Opens

Shotgun season for deer opens on Monday, December 2, and runs through Saturday, December 14. Muzzleloader season runs from Monday, December 16, through Tuesday, December 31. No hunting is allowed on Sundays. Hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

A hunting license is not a permit to trespass on private property, posted or not. A Monterey Town By-Law requires all hunters to have and carry written permission from the owners of the land where they are hunting; permissions must be renewed annually. Hunting licenses must be carried and shown upon demand to any landowners or state or local law enforcement officers Discharge of any firearm across or within 150 feet of any state or hard-surfaced highway is prohibited, as is discharge of any firearm within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use.

Licenses and more information about hunting regulations and seasons for other animals are available at the town offices.

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Calendar

Every Monday (except holidays): Selectboard meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Saturday, December 7: Monterey–New Marlborough PTA Christmas Fair, New Marlborough Central School, Mill River, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. See p. 11.

Wednesday, December 11: Community Dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Eileen Lawlor will present a mixed-media program celebrating winter solstice and holidays. See p. 3.

Thursday, December 12: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Saturday, December 14: Holiday concert of Renaissance music by the Double String Duo, featuring Jason Kessler on 12-string guitar and Rick Eckberg on 5-string double bass, Meetinghouse sanctuary, 7 p.m. Suggested donation $10 at the door.

Wednesday, December 18: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.

Thursday, December 19: Full Moon.

Saturday, December 21: Coffee House with entertainment by Bottom of the Bucket, Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall, 7 p.m., to help raise money for Mel Hochstetler's mission trip to Colombia. Suggested donation $8 at the door. See p. 4.

Sunday, December 22:

First day of Winter

Puppet show for children by master puppeteer Michael Wolski, Monterey Meetinghouse, 2 p.m. Santa to visit Church basement after the show. Free. Sponsored by Monterey Coffee Club.

Tuesday, December 24:

Living Nativity, Gould Farm Barn, 7 p.m. Follow the star!

Christmas Eve Service, Monterey Meetinghouse, 8 p.m. Please check the church website or call for information and to verify the time. See p. 4.

There will be no Mountain Laurel contradance this month.

The Observer

October 26–November 25

High temp. (11/12)	65°
Low temp. (11/8)	19°
Avg. high temp.	45.3°
Avg. low temp.	30.3°
Avg. temp.	37.8°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	6.86"
Snowfall	13"

Precipitation occurred on 19 days.

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Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (e-mail or PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 3, 6, 23; George Emmons, pp. 1, 5; Bonner McAllester, p. 17; Glynis Oliver, pp. 20, 21.

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